

Preparing for Holy Matrimony in The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh



Wedding at Cana Duccio di Buoninsegna (1308-1311)

Materials for Remarriage

Revised, A.D. 2009

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Episcopal Church Canons on Marriage

(pp. 56-57) Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, 2006

CANON 18: Of the Solemnization of Holy Matrimony

Sec. 1. Every Member of the Clergy of this Church shall conform to the laws of the State governing the creation of the civil status of marriage, and also to the laws of this Church governing the solemnization of Holy Matrimony.

Sec. 2. Before solemnizing a marriage the Member of the Clergy shall have ascertained:

- (a) That both parties have the right to contract a marriage according to the laws of the State.
- (b) That both parties understand that Holy Matrimony is a physical and spiritual union of a man and a woman, entered into within the community of faith, by mutual consent of heart, mind, and will, and with intent that it be lifelong.
- (c) That both parties freely and knowingly consent to such marriage, without fraud, coercion, mistake as to identity of a partner, or mental reservation.
- (d) That at least one of the parties has received Holy Baptism.
- (e) That both parties have been instructed as to the nature, meaning, and purpose of Holy Matrimony by the Member of the Clergy, or that they have both received such instruction from persons known by the Member of the Clergy to be competent and responsible.

Sec. 3. No Member of the Clergy of this Church shall solemnize any marriage unless the following procedures are complied with:

- (a) The intention of the parties to contract marriage shall have been signified to the Member of the Clergy at least thirty days before the service of solemnization; *Provided*, that for weighty cause, this requirement may be dispensed with if one of the parties is a member of the Congregation of the Member of the Clergy, or can furnish satisfactory evidence of responsibility. In case the thirty days' notice is waived, the Member of the Clergy shall report such action in writing to the Bishop immediately.
- (b) There shall be present at least two witnesses to the solemnization of marriage.
- (c) The Member of the Clergy shall record in the proper register the date and place of the marriage, the names of the parties and their parents, the age of the parties, their residences, and their Church status; the witnesses and the Member of the Clergy shall sign the record.
- (d) The Member of the Clergy shall have required that the parties sign the following declaration:
- (e) "We, A.B. and C.D., desiring to receive the blessing of Holy Matrimony in the Church, do solemnly declare that we hold marriage to be a lifelong union of husband and wife as it is set forth in the Book of Common Prayer.
- (f) "We believe that the union of husband and wife, in heart, body, and mind, is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and, when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord.
- (g) "And we do engage ourselves, so far as in us lies, to make our utmost effort to establish this relationship and to seek God's help thereto."

Sec. 4. It shall be within the discretion of any Member of the Clergy of this Church to decline to solemnize any marriage.

**CANON 19: Of Regulations Respecting Holy Matrimony:
Concerning Preservation of Marriage, Dissolution of Marriage, and Remarriage**

Sec. 1. When marital unity is imperiled by dissension, it shall be the duty, if possible, of either or both parties, before taking legal action, to lay the matter before a Member of the Clergy; it shall be the duty of such Member of the Clergy to act first to protect and promote the physical and emotional safety of those involved and only then, if it be possible, to labor that the parties may be reconciled.

Sec. 2 (a) Any member of this Church whose marriage has been annulled or dissolved by a civil court may apply to the Bishop or Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese in which such person is legally or canonically resident for a judgment as to his or her marital status in the eyes of the Church. Such judgment may be a recognition of the nullity, or of the termination of the said marriage; *Provided*, that no such judgment shall be construed as affecting in any way the legitimacy of children or the civil validity of the former relationship.

(b) Every judgment rendered under this Section shall be in writing and shall be made a matter of permanent record in the Archives of the Diocese.

Sec. 3. No Member of the Clergy of this Church shall solemnize the marriage of any person who has been the husband or wife of any other person then living, nor shall any member of this Church enter into a marriage when either of the contracting parties has been the husband or the wife of any other person then living, except as hereinafter provided:

(a) The Member of the Clergy shall be satisfied by appropriate evidence that the prior marriage has been annulled or dissolved by a final judgment or decree of a civil court of competent jurisdiction.

(b) The Member of the Clergy shall have instructed the parties that continuing concern must be shown for the well-being of the former spouse, and of any children of the prior marriage.

(c) The Member of the Clergy shall consult with and obtain the consent of the Bishop of the Diocese wherein the Member of the Clergy is canonically resident or the Bishop of the Diocese in which the Member of the Clergy is licensed to officiate prior to, and shall report to that Bishop, the solemnization of any marriage under this Section.

(d) If the proposed marriage is to be solemnized in a jurisdiction other than the one in which the consent has been given, the consent shall be affirmed by the Bishop of that jurisdiction.

Sec. 4. All provisions of Canon I.18 shall, in all cases, apply.

Pennsylvania State Requirements for a Marriage License

While there are some uniform regulations for marriage in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, you will need to inquire with the county in which you will be married for particular details. Below you will find some sample information from the Allegheny County website, www.county.allegheny.pa.us/regwills/regplan.asp, followed by contact information for all eleven counties of the Diocese of Pittsburgh. If a web address is included in the information, it means that the county's marriage license requirements can be found online.

From the Allegheny County Homepage, November, 2005. (Edited)

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO OBTAIN A MARRIAGE LICENSE?

Applicants seeking a marriage license must appear together in the Marriage License Bureau of the Register of Wills Office and complete an Application for Marriage License. In Allegheny County, the Marriage License Bureau is located on the First Floor of the City-County Building, 414 Grant Street, Pittsburgh.

WHEN SHOULD WE APPLY FOR A LICENSE AND HOW LONG IS IT VALID?

Applicants should take the necessary steps to obtain a Marriage License 2 to 3 weeks before the scheduled date of their marriage ceremony.

Pennsylvania law requires a three-day waiting period between the date applicants apply for a Marriage License and when the license may be issued.

A marriage license is valid for 60 days from the date it is issued and may be picked up from the Marriage License Bureau by either of the applicants, a friend or a relative.

WHAT ABOUT PRIOR MARRIAGES?

Applicants who have been previously married and divorced must furnish a certified copy of the Decree of Divorce dissolving the marriage. Certified copies of divorce decrees may be obtained by contacting the Family Division of the Court in which the decree was granted. A widow or widower must provide the date of death of their former spouse.

WHAT ARE THE AGE REQUIREMENTS TO MARRY?

Applicants must be 18 years of age in order to apply for a marriage license. This rule applies to both male and female applicants. Applicants between 16-18 years of age must be accompanied by the custodial parent or guardian to provide written consent. Applicants

under 16 years of age must have BOTH the written consent of the custodial parent or guardian and the written approval of a judge of the Orphans' Court Division of the Court of Common Pleas.

WHAT ARE THE FEES FOR A MARRIAGE LICENSE?

The fees for a Marriage License vary from county to county. Allegheny County fees, including Pennsylvania taxes and surcharges, are as follows:

Computer Fee \$15.00
Allegheny County fee 9.50
Pennsylvania Writ Tax .50
Act 151 Surcharge 10.00
Act 222 Surcharge 10.00

TOTAL \$45.00 (CASH ONLY)

Additional fee per Divorce Decree \$3.00

DUPLICATE MARRIAGE LICENSES:

The Allegheny County Marriage License Bureau now offers a certified facsimile of a couple's marriage license. Facsimiles may be obtained by contacting the Marriage License Bureau at the address provided below.

Couples who wish to obtain a certified copy of their marriage record may do so by contacting the county in which their marriage license was issued.

OFFICE HOURS:

The Allegheny County Marriage License is Bureau is open, exclusive of Holidays, Monday-Friday, 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. During summer months, the office is open on Saturday's from 8:30 A.M.-1:00 P.M.

QUESTIONS:

Applicants who have questions concerning any of the material contained in this brochure may

contact the Marriage License Bureau at (412) 350-4230.

Contact Information for Marriage Licenses by County

Allegheny County (412) 350-4230

Register Of Wills
Marriage License Bureau
1st Floor, City-County Bldg.
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
www.county.allegheny.pa.us/regwills/regplan.asp

Armstrong County (724) 548-3280

Register and Recorder's Office
Armstrong County Courthouse
500 Market St.
Kittanning PA 16201

Beaver County (724) 728-3934 ext 273

Register of Wills & Clerk of Orphans' Court
Beaver County Courthouse
810 Third Street - Room 111
Beaver, PA 15009
www.co.beaver.pa.us/Register/marriage.html

Butler County (724) 284-5348

Register of Wills & Clerk of Orphans' Court
Butler Government Center
PO Box 1208
124 W. Diamond St.
Butler 16003-1208

Cambria County (814) 472-1440

Register of Wills
Cambria County Courthouse
200 S. Center St.
Ebensburg, PA 15931
www.co.cambria.pa.us/wills.html

Fayette County (724) 430-1206

Register of Wills
Fayette County Courthouse
61 East Main Street
Uniontown, Pennsylvania 15401

Greene County (724) 852-5281

Clerk of Courts
Greene County Courthouse, 1st Floor
10 East High Street
Waynesburg, PA 15370

Indiana County (724) 465-3860

Register and Recorder
Indiana County Court House
825 Philadelphia Street
Indiana, PA 15701

Somerset County (814) 445-1542

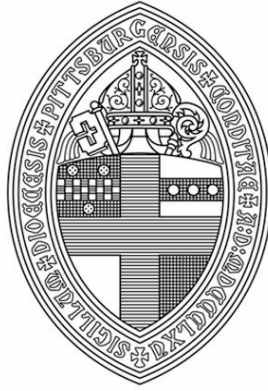
Register of Wills & Clerk of Orphans' Court
Somerset County Courthouse
111 E Union St # 170
Somerset, PA

Washington County (724) 228-6778

Register of Wills
Washing County Courthouse
1 S. Main St.
Suite 1002
100 West Beau Street
Washington, Pa 15301

Westmoreland County (724) 830-3178

Register of Wills & Clerk of Orphan's Court
Westmoreland County Courthouse
2 N Main Street, Suite 301 3rd Floor
Greensburg, PA 15601



Declaration of Intention

According to Canon I.18.3, to be filed with the Member of the Clergy at least thirty days before the marriage service.

Place of Marriage _____
Rector or Priest in Charge

Parish _____
Date

We, _____ and _____,
desiring to receive the blessing of Holy Matrimony in the Church, do solemnly declare that we hold marriage to be a lifelong union of husband and wife as it is set forth in the Book of Common Prayer.

We believe that the union of husband and wife, in heart, body, and mind, is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and, when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord.

And we do engage ourselves, so far as in us lies, to make our utmost effort to establish this relationship and to seek God's help thereto.

Signed _____

Standards for Marriage Preparation of Divorced Persons

Couples are to meet a minimum of five times, usually with the priest officiating at the wedding, for premarital counseling. These sessions are in addition to the meeting to discuss a wedding date, wedding plans, etc. The following topics are covered.

1. The nature of the commitment they are making by deciding to undertake a Christian marriage.
2. The nature of each of their commitments to Christ and his Church.
3. Sexuality.
4. Preparation for and the nurturing of Christian children.
5. Relationships with in-laws.
6. The legal and financial implications of marriage in regards to:
 - a. Financial planning
 - b. Wills
 - c. Health insurance
 - d. Life insurance
 - e. Credit
7. Communication skills in marriage.
8. Decision-making in marriage.
9. Conflict resolution in marriage, including the spiritual resources of repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation.

One session should be devoted to filling out and discussing the Application for Remarriage, which is to be sent to the Bishop within at least sixty days before the wedding date.

The Diocese encourages couples to attend a marriage preparation weekend, such as Engaged Encounter, in addition to the five required sessions with the minister. Engaged Encounter is a ministry of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, but is open to all Christian couples. For information phone David and Lynn Hein at 724-933-7610.

Application for Remarriage in the Church

To be submitted to the bishop at least sixty days prior to the date of the proposed marriage

This information is to be mailed to the Bishop, who must approve all remarriages of divorced persons in this diocese.

Name(s) of Couple to be married _____

Priest's name _____

Priest's address _____

Date and place of proposed wedding _____

List the dates you have met with the couple and the topics covered.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

Are you satisfied that this marriage is soundly intended? Please give a detailed explanation.

Application for Remarriage in the Church

To be submitted to the bishop at least sixty days prior to the date of the proposed marriage

If neither party is a member of your parish, or if you are not holding a pastoral cure, please explain your reasons for officiating at this wedding.

Has any other minister of the Episcopal Church or any other church declined to solemnize this proposed wedding?

If so, you must consult with this minister. In light of this consultation, why have you decided to officiate at this wedding?

The name, address, and phone number of minister who refused to officiate:

Have all requirements of Canons I.18 and I.19 been met?

The solemnization of any marriage under Canon I.19 must be reported to the Bishop within thirty days after the wedding. The Bishop must receive a report on the marriage during the second year of the marriage. This report is for the Bishop's information only and is confidential.

If you are not an active canonical resident holding a pastoral cure in this diocese, then this form must be accompanied by the endorsement of such a minister.

With this application, the following must be enclosed:

1. An official copy of the divorce decree(s)
2. The signed Declaration of Intention

Application for Remarriage in the Church

To be submitted to the bishop at least sixty days prior to the date of the proposed marriage

Name _____

Place of birth _____ Birth Date _____

Present address _____

Present marital status _____

Date(s) of any former marriage(s) _____

Place(s) of any former marriage(s) _____

Name(s) of officiating clergy or other official(s) _____

Date(s) of any divorce(s) _____

Name and location of parish in which you were baptized _____

_____ Date of Baptism _____

Name and location of parish in which you were confirmed _____

_____ Date of confirmation _____

Name and location of parish you are now attending _____

How long have you been attending this parish? _____

Father's name _____

Father's address _____

Mother's maiden name _____

Mother's address (if different from father's) _____

How are the resources of the Christian faith, such as the Scriptures, the Sacraments, fellowship and prayer, a part of your life?

Application for Remarriage in the Church

To be submitted to the bishop at least sixty days prior to the date of the proposed marriage

Why do you want to be married in the Episcopal Church?

What do you think makes a marriage a Christian marriage?

What will be your involvement in the Church after your wedding?

Application for Remarriage in the Church

To be submitted to the bishop at least sixty days prior to the date of the proposed marriage

Name _____

Place of birth _____

Birth Date _____

Present address _____

Present marital status _____

Date(s) of any former marriage(s) _____

Place(s) of any former marriage(s) _____

Name(s) of officiating clergy or other official(s) _____

Date(s) of any divorce(s) _____

Name and location of parish in which you were baptized _____

_____ Date of Baptism _____

Name and location of parish in which you were confirmed _____

_____ Date of confirmation _____

Name and location of parish you are now attending _____

How long have you been attending this parish? _____

Father's name _____

Father's address _____

Mother's maiden name _____

Mother's address (if different from father's) _____

How are the resources of the Christian faith, such as the Scriptures, the Sacraments, fellowship and prayer, a part of your life? _____

Application for Remarriage in the Church

To be submitted to the bishop at least sixty days prior to the date of the proposed marriage

Why do you want to be married in the Episcopal Church?

What do you think makes a marriage a Christian marriage?

What will be your involvement in the Church after your wedding?

To be completed by the

DIVORCED

PERSON(S)

Application for Remarriage in the Church

To be submitted to the bishop at least sixty days prior to the date of the proposed marriage

The following questions should be answered separately by each divorced person **in addition** to the Groom and Bride forms. If a person has been divorced more than once, he or she should answer all of the following questions for each marriage that has ended. Therefore, if more than one form is needed, please make additional copies or attach an additional sheet covering the questions found herein.

Name

What circumstances led to the dissolution of the former marriage?

Are there any children by the former marriage(s)?

Name Age

Name Age

Name Age

To be completed by the

DIVORCED

PERSON(S)

Application for Remarriage in the Church

To be submitted to the bishop at least sixty days prior to the date of the proposed marriage

What continuing care and ongoing support have you been maintaining for your former spouse and any children?

How are you providing for the spiritual nurturing of any children?

To be completed by the

DIVORCED

PERSON(S)

Application for Remarriage in the Church

To be submitted to the bishop at least sixty days prior to the date of the proposed marriage

What relationship to any children from the former marriage do you intend to maintain after you remarry?